

II. Remarks

Claims 1-14 were pending in this application. Claims 1-2, 9, 11 and 13 have been rejected, and claims 3, 5-8, 10, 12 and 14 have been objected to. The present amendment cancels claims 3 and 11-12, and amends claims 1, 5, 7-9 and 13 to more particularly point out and clarify Applicants' invention. No new matter has been added. After this amendment, claims 1-2, 4-10 and 13-14 will be pending.

Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP Publication Number 03-044060 issued to OKI Electric Inc. Co. Ltd. ("OKI"). Claims 9 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP Publication Number 03-148350 issued to Autoflug GmbH ("Autoflug"). Claims 9 and 11 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP Publication Number 01-202553 issued to Britax Kolb GmbH ("Britax"). The present amendment cancels claim 11 and therefore, the rejection of claim 11 is now moot.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over OKI in view of U.S. Patent Number 5,495,993 issued to Hibata ("Hibata"). Claim 13

stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Autoflug in view of Hibata.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 3 and 12 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 1 has been rewritten to include the limitations of claim 3. Claims 2 and 4-8 depend from claim 1 and are allowable therewith. Claim 9 has been rewritten to include the limitations of claim 12. Claims 10 and 13-14 depend from claim 9 and are allowable therewith.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present form of the claims are patentably distinguishable over the art of record and that this application is now in condition for allowance. Such action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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/Daniel P. Dailey/
Daniel P. Dailey, Reg. No. 54,054
Attorney for Applicants

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
524 SOUTH MAIN STREET
SUITE 200
ANN ARBOR, MI 48104
(734) 302-6000